



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“OHV Use Awareness Important For Forest Resources And Other Users”

Hamilton, Montana, Tuesday, November 19, 2002—During this time of the year, the Bitterroot National Forest is full of activity from hunters, recreationists and off highway vehicle (OHV) users.

With increased activity across the forest, diligence in safety, respect for other users and responsibility for obeying National Forest laws is essential to protect Montana’s beautiful landscape. Because OHV users share the outdoors with numerous other forest users, it is important to know and understand the rules and regulations that govern the use of OHVs on the Bitterroot National Forest. Driving cross-country by motorized, wheeled vehicles is prohibited to help minimize impacts on the land and protect natural resources. In order to keep designated trails and areas on public lands open for motorized use, it is essential that OHV enthusiasts minimize their impact on the land and respect seasonal trail closures and other rules designed to protect the land and provide opportunities for all forest users.

Cross-country travel occurs when a motorized, wheeled vehicle goes off a designated road or a trail. “If you find yourself driving across undisturbed ground where no road or trail currently exists, then you’re in violation of the OHV policy,” said OHV Ranger Debbie Becker.

Travel to a temporary campsite is allowed within 300 feet of a road or trail. Roads and trails designated for OHV use on the Bitterroot National Forest are specified in the Bitterroot National Forest Travel Map. Travel Maps are free and can be picked-up at all Forest Service offices.

OHV users are responsible to know which roads and trails are appropriate for use as well as acquiring the required licensing, decals and registration. If an off highway vehicle is used only on private property then it is exempt from fee, registration, decal and certificate of ownership.

For more information, please call Debbie Becker at (406) 821-4250.

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